

COUNTY DESCRIPTION

Geographical Facts

Crockett County is located in the central part of west Tennessee and is in the second tier of counties east of the Mississippi River. Crockett County contains five incorporated towns of Alamo, Bells, Friendship, Gadsen, and Maury City. The county is 268 square miles in area and is located approximately 20 miles from Jackson and 77 miles from Memphis to the south.

Crockett County has a total population of 13,378 (1990 Census) and Alamo is the county seat. Its largest population centers are Alamo with 2,471 residents and Bells with 1,643 residents. Crockett County has a large population of migrant Hispanic residing in Bells. This population varies at different times of the year and is not included in the reported population. The council estimates to be as many as 1,500 migrant are present at any given time.

Through the Act of the General Assembly in 1871, Crockett County was created from portions of Haywood, Gibson, and Madison Counties. Issac Johnson, known as "the father of Crockett County", led the long struggle to create the county. Due to Johnson's great admiration for Davy Crockett, a Tennessee Frontiersman, the county was named in his honor.

Economic Base

The county's economic bases consist of retail trade and services, agriculture, and industry.

Total retail sales in 1995 were reported at \$44,771,000 with a per capita personal income in 1995 of \$17,765.

Agriculturally, life in Crockett County is tied very closely to land. The major crops produced include cotton, corn, soybeans, wheat and strawberries. The county has extensive fertile bottomland along the branches of the Forked Deer River, this producing some of the best farmland in the state of Tennessee.

Several industries also exist in the county, with the largest being Picksweet Frozen Foods located in Bells. This industry reports employing a reported 500 people. Manufacturing wages for Crockett in 1994 totaled \$41,366,035 with an average annual wage of \$19,736.

Health Care

Health care is provided by the Crockett County Health Department, five private primary care physicians, three family nurse practitioners, three dentist and three home healthcare centers.

The county has no hospital, but is located in close proximity to Jackson, Tennessee, which offers two hospitals with a combined capacity of 825 beds. Crockett County has a county owned ambulance services located in Alamo and offers 24-hour service with three ambulances and staff certified as EMTs or paramedics.

In addition the county has two nursing homes with a combined capacity of 240 beds.